

BLINDNESS IS
ONLY A NUISANCE

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To teach without sight is possible, says this student

Blindness Is Only A Nuisance

Arturo Baca demonstrates that good teaching does not require eyes, but one must have the power to "see."

LOSS of eyesight has not meant loss of confidence or determination to Arturo F. Baca, who expects soon to fulfill a life-long ambition—to be a high school teacher of Spanish.

This semester Baca is completing work at University of California, Davis, after finishing a successful student-teaching experience last spring at Sacramento's Grant union high school. He had first hoped that he might teach agriculture but switched to Spanish as a major field in order to restrict his activities to the classroom.

Determination Was Necessary

"Baca's success began with his own great determination and sincerity," Gene S. Jacobsen, supervisor of student teaching on the Davis campus, said recently.

"After that came help and encouragement from those who recognized his ability. As a result, this promising young man can do an important part to relieve the shortage of well-trained teachers."

Baca, whose home is in Santa Monica, has been slowly losing his sight since childhood because of a gradual deterioration of the ocular retina. Since 1953, he has been almost totally blind.

After graduation in 1954 from California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo, Baca worked as an agricultural trainee in banana production in Honduras, Central America. His lack of sight, however, proved too great a handicap for this type of work.

Back in California, Baca enrolled for an eight-month course of orientation and Braille instruction at the Oakland Orientation Center for Adult Blind. Then, with the



Instructing a biology class at Grant union high school in Sacramento, blind Arturo Baca finds no difficulty in moving about the classroom and using the blackboard. When he completes his studies this summer, he will be prepared to accept a full-time teaching job in agriculture, biology and Spanish. He enjoys classroom teaching.

aid and encouragement of Allen Jenkins, administrator at the Oakland Orientation Center, he applied for admission to the teacher-training program at the University of California, Davis.

"The first reaction of our teacher-training staff," Supervisor Jacobsen recalls, "was to recommend that Mr. Baca not be admitted because of his handicap.

"But upon talking with him about the problems involved, we soon realized that in spite of his disability, he was personally well-adjusted and had great determination to become a teacher. Because of this, we decided to admit him to the program."

A successful blind teacher in the Los Angeles school system, Dr. Isabelle Grant, has given Baca frequent encouragement and has permitted him to "observe" the teaching methods she employs in her classroom.

"In our classes," Jacobsen pointed out, "Mr. Baca has asked for no favors and no special consideration. We have been frank and honest with him, pointing out those areas that could be 'stumbling blocks' for him.

Completes Course Easily

"He completed his on-campus semester last winter with no difficulty. Then, in spite of the odds against him, he asked us to try to place him in a high school as a student teacher."

"The teachers at Grant and the instructors and students at Davis have all been wonderful," Baca said early this month. "The experience here is showing me just what I need to know to be a good teacher. The question most frequently asked me is, 'What do you do about the discipline problem?' My answer is always that the situation is in no way different or more difficult for a blind teacher than it is for a sighted one. Blindness, in my opinion, is not a deterrent and I consider it only a nuisance."

Shadowing the Executive

Teachers get first-hand story of state's
basic economy at unique summer course

By Donald S. Bibbero

NOT ONLY the "how" but the "why" lying behind each business decision in a range of typical rural industrial firms were among the valuable lessons learned by 18 teachers who participated in a unique five-week workshop on "Understanding Business and Industry" at College of the Pacific last summer.

Jointly sponsored by the school of education and the department of business administration at the COP campus, the workshop was the result of detailed planning by educators and business executives.

(Continued on next page)

Mr. Bibbero is associate professor of business administration, College of the Pacific, Stockton. He was assisted in the preparation of this article by Dr. J. Marc Jantzen, dean of the school of education at COP. The author was director of the workshop described here.



ON THE JOB—Actually handling the tools of business and industry, these teachers learn about the basic principles of servicing, packaging, and warehousing during a summer workshop in the Stockton area. Above, Lorraine Giguere uses a wrench on a car in a lubrication hoist. Below, left, John W. Anderson and John A. Flaberty join forces to man a fertilizer packaging and weighing machine; right, Don F. Evans and Allen L. Russ operate motorized fork-lifts in a big Standard Oil store-room. Eighteen teachers in the five-week course had opportunities to study the operations of fourteen industries.



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